



12

## Report out on “Strengthening the Bones” conference

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) has released a report on “Strengthening the Bones,” a gathering held in the fall of 2011 that brought together over 100 individuals representing a cross section of arts services organizations, cultural centers, museums, artists and artist collectives, foundations and government funding agencies to learn and build around the community of Native art.

The report outlines next steps and collaborations needed to build support systems, educational capacity and identify focus areas for arts organizations and leaders.

Action steps called for nurturing artist success, development of leadership potential in arts institutions, mentorship of youth through arts, capacity building for Native art programming and community engagement, education and outreach within the field and among the general public.

Visit [www.nacf.us](http://www.nacf.us) for details and a link to the full report.

# Smithsonian purchases Jade Bread’s ledger art

By Kristen Hanning,  
Associate editor of *Iniwa*,  
Great Falls High School’s  
student newspaper  
(Reprinted with permission)

“My biggest dream would definitely be to go to art school, get my museum degree and work somewhere like the Smithsonian,” said Great Falls High School sophomore Jade Bread.

Bread has been highly absorbed in ledger art since age 5. Ledger art generally includes narrative paintings or drawings. “I think it is really interesting and it is a part of my culture,” said Bread.

Artistic ability is spread throughout Bread’s family and fueled by their Native American heritage. “That is completely what our art is about: our culture,” she said.

Her mother, Jackie Bread, uses her artistic skill to create pictorial bead work such as beaded images of people.

“I definitely am motivated by my mom, she just inspires me,” said Bread, “and probably my brother too, just looking at what he has done.” Bread emphasizes her mother’s determination, “Just seeing how far she has come inspires me to someday become like her,” said Bread.

Bread attends various art shows including Indian and Cherokee art markets and gallery shows. In regards to her show presence and the high demand of her pieces, Bread said, “There are times I have sold out [of art pieces] by noon on the first day. Some people



Jade Bread at work on a new creation.  
(Photos by Brooklynn Wilson)

will come at 5 a.m. and wait for us in order to buy our pieces.”

Bread has won many awards during her appearances, including two best of shows. She also has acquired multiple first, second and a few third place recognitions. Her favorite show to attend is the Indian Art Market in Santa Fe. “There are so many artists, it is definitely the biggest show going on,” said Bread.

Bread’s most recent artistic achievement is the purchase of some of her pieces by the

Smithsonian to become a part of their ledger collection in the Native American Exhibit for their permanent collection. “I am the only female in the exhibit as far as I know,” she said.

This purchase marks a big accomplishment in Bread’s artistic career. “It definitely makes me want to work harder, it really gets me motivated,” said Bread.

One of her favorite pieces was sold to the Smithsonian. “It was really appealing, especially the matting on it, (which) really put it all together,” said Bread.

One day Bread hopes to be able to consume her days with art. “I want to travel around and just see everyone’s artwork and collect it,” said Bread.



Ledger art by Jade Bread

## NATIVE NEWS COMPILED BY DYANI BINGHAM

### Montana Folk Festival accepting applications for First People’s Market

The Montana Folk Festival, set for July 12-14 in Butte, is now accepting applications from Native American artists and crafters who would like to show their work in the First Peoples’ Marketplace.

Over the last five years the First Peoples’ Marketplace has grown to be one of the largest showcases for Native artists in the West.

Any tribally affiliated artist in the region wanting to apply can visit the website [www.montanafolkfestival.com](http://www.montanafolkfestival.com) for an application and guidelines to print out and mail in; or call 406-497-6464 and provide a regular mailing address for an application and guidelines to be mailed to them.

A jury of experts will evaluate the applicants, and select up to 19 artists for the 2013 Montana Folk Festival.

The Marketplace is made possible by a generous sponsorship from Seacast, Inc. ([www.seacast.com](http://www.seacast.com)) a Seattle-based corporation with deep Butte and Montana roots.

“Thanks to Seacast’s major sponsorship and support, we can continue to invite Native American artists from throughout the region to apply to the juried craft marketplace to showcase and sell their work during the festival,” said George Everett, executive director of Mainstreet Uptown Butte, one of the lead organizations developing the event.

“We expect to attract tens of thousands of summer visitors from throughout the region and we hope that Native artists will see the opportunity to show their work at the event,” he added.

The three-day festival celebrates music, dance, food and culture, drawing on the heritage of the many immigrant groups who have helped settle the state, region and nation.

The Montana Folk Festival features six stages with world-class music. More than 200

performers, artists and craftspeople reflect the musical influences of immigrants from around the world. Admission is free.

For details about how to participate in and enjoy the Montana Folk Festival, visit [www.montanafolkfestival.com](http://www.montanafolkfestival.com) or call George Everett at 406-565-2249.

### Encourage shoppers to buy Native

In an effort to promote the importance of Native art, shoppers are encouraged to support and buy from Native artisans and Native-owned businesses.

Buying Native:

- Encourages small business growth;
- Supports Native families;
- Brings new money into reservation communities;
- Encourages artistic excellence;
- Builds pride;
- Promotes cultural understanding and awareness;
- Educates consumers; and
- Ensures economic opportunities for Native entrepreneurs.

There are resources out there that make this commitment to Native art easier:

First, there is a new “Buy Native” blog at [beyondbuckskin.blogspot.com/p/buy-native.html](http://beyondbuckskin.blogspot.com/p/buy-native.html). The blog is useful for both consumers and artists. Consumers can find a wide variety of Native-made items, ranging from quillwork to baskets to innovative Native street-wear.

Native artists can use the site as a marketing tool, linking their website, Etsy site or Facebook page to the blog in order to build name recognition and sell their work.

Secondly, it is important to encourage consumers to look for labels that ensure their products are Native-made. Artists can use these same resources to add value to their products and set their products apart from the rest of the pack:

### Native American-Made Resources

- Made by American Indians trademark: [www.indianaglink.com/made-by.html](http://www.indianaglink.com/made-by.html)
- Native American Made in Montana: [www.madeinmontanausa.com/](http://www.madeinmontanausa.com/)

It is also important to note that many Native-made goods are often one-of-a-kind pieces that cannot be duplicated or found anywhere else in the world. Although you may pay a little bit more for the Native-made product, it is because the item is handmade and reflects many years of preserving artistic traditions and innovation.

### Call for artists: Montana Wyoming Native Arts Resource Manual

The Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council is developing a new resource manual showcasing Native artists in these two states. The manual will be used to promote Native artists and their works, and to educate and hopefully inspire consumers to support the Native arts in a more meaningful manner.

The guidelines for participating artists are as follows:

- Must be a Native artist living in Montana or Wyoming; and
- Must be an enrolled member of a federal- or state-recognized tribe.

For inclusion, please send your name, name of your business, contact information, medium and a jpeg image of your work to [dbingham@mtwytlc.com](mailto:dbingham@mtwytlc.com).

Deadline is Feb. 1, 2013, and the resource manual will be published and disseminated in March.



Logo by Victor Pascual

